

## Dive Summary

## Cocoa Beach [JSL]

9/3/2001

## Oculina Habitat Area of Particular Concern, Islands in the Stream

## Overview of Dive Clelia-617 at Cocoa Beach [JSL]

Benhur Chiong piloted this dive at the site known as Cocoa Beach [JSL] (28.27714 / -79.99816) on 9/3/2001 starting at 17:00:00. Total dive time was 2:56:02 and the maximum depth reached was 270 feet. Scientific observers were Grant Gilmore and Paul Orlando. (All times EST)

**Dive Objectives.** Objectives accomplished during the dive include:

Exploration/Recon

Fish Assessment

Benthic Assessment

Transect(s)

Ground Truthing

Filming

**Data Collected.** Types of data collected during the dive include:

CTD/Data Sonde

Tracking

Digital Video Tapes 1

Digital Video Tapes 1

Digital Video Tapes 1

Digital Video Tapes 1

## Living Marine Resources Abundance

few 2-10; many 11 - 100; abundant &gt;100

|              |      |               |        |
|--------------|------|---------------|--------|
| Pelagic Fish | Few  | Other Benthic | Single |
| Bottom Fish  | Many |               |        |
| Crustacean   | Few  |               |        |
| Mollusk      | Few  |               |        |
| Echinoderm   | Many |               |        |

## Observations and Comments on Living Marine Resources:

most abundant fish were single Serranus phoebe scattered over the bottom

## General Comments

remarkable number of species and number of individuals for open bottom in scattered small rocks/ledges.

## Dive Track Description

Dive started on a sand bottom with rolling hillocks. Some hills had small rocks with gorgonian and sponges. Rolling terrain resembled terrestrial sand dunes. On east heading with southern current sub drifted NE over rolling hills to a wreck site - schooner or ketch-single mast with large tanks. This was a sandy site. The transect continued east to a series of ridges - the largest top at 200' base at 260'. Had oculina rubble on its northern face - no oculina rubble or s. face - no living oculina anywhere. only small heads of oculina were on mast and tank of wreck. One or two on sand mounds. Remainder of dive track was to the west-north west over rolling hills and rock mounds, gradually entering an open sand bottom. There were no living heads of oculina anywhere and considerable rubble in places. Relief of features observed during the dive ranged from 10 to 20 meters.

